

MEMORANDUM FOR: Distribution

FROM: W - John J. Kelly, Jr.

SUBJECT: Approval of QPF Process Assessment Team Recommendations

On February 25, 1999, I commissioned nine individuals from diverse components of the National Weather Service (NWS) to review the Quantitative Precipitation Forecast (QPF) process. My charge to the team was to determine whether the current QPF process constitutes the most efficient use of human resources to produce quality QPF information. I tasked the team to conduct a quantitative, objective, and unbiased assessment to validate each step of the forecast process and make recommendations to ensure the most efficient operational QPF process. The assessment team adhered to my guidelines and conducted a comprehensive and fair evaluation which uncovered substantial inefficiency and complexity in the current QPF process. Consequently, the team recommended simplifying the process. The team leader, Gary Carter, presented the team findings and recommendations to me on June 18, 1999 and to the entire NWS Corporate Board on August 25, 1999.

The NWS Corporate Board unanimously adopted the following QPF Assessment Team recommendations:

- 1) HPC and HAS personnel will produce QPF products for use in river forecast models for all RFCs east of the Rockies;
- 2) HPC and HAS QPF products will be distributed to external NWS customers and partners
- 3) All WFOs may, if they have a local requirement, produce QPFs for internal and external local use;
- 4) QPF production process in the Western Region (west of the Continental Divide) and Alaska will be reevaluated after the 1999-2000 wet season.

Benefits associated with simplifying the QPF process include: 1) the more efficient and effective use of human resources; 2) improved QPF input for river forecasting; 3) simplified coordination; 4) the provision of timely and consistent verification feedback; 5) expanded QPF product availability for our agency and users; 6) national consistency in the QPF process; and 7) more rapid infusion of science and technology in operations.

The complete QPF Process Assessment Team Report is available at the following URL address: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/er/hq/QPF/> .

The phased implementation of these recommendations will occur over the next year and an implementation plan will be developed shortly. I am confident this simplified and more efficient QPF process will improve hydrologic and other services. I thank Gary and the team members for their super efforts.